

KRCG-TV

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Stroke and heart attack plan



Missouri's Time Critical Diagnosis Advisory Committee meets in Jefferson City.

JEFFERSON CITY -- The state's emergency responders are moving forward with a plan to implement a statewide emergency care plan for people who suffer from stroke or a serious type of heart attack called a Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI). A meeting Tuesday in Jefferson City brought together 120 leaders in the Missouri healthcare system.

The statewide plan would designate certain hospitals as stroke or heart centers, based on their ability to care for patients and offer the most advanced treatments. In July, Governor Blunt signed legislation to get the plan started.

Organizers say starting this month, health care providers and advocates will work with the state to craft the regulations to support this advanced level of care. Missouri is the first state in the nation to enact legislation creating a statewide system of care for STEMI and stroke that is modeled after the care provided for trauma patients.